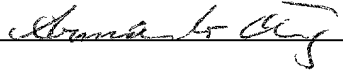


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:) CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sirs:

Please amend the patent application filed herewith as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, before the first paragraph of the application,
please insert the following:

--This is a division of prior U.S. Application Serial No.
09/111,915, filed July 8, 1998.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

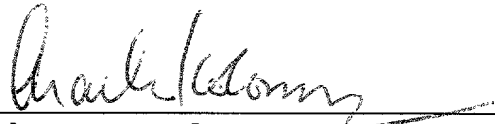
Please cancel Claims 1-11, 37, 38 and 39 without prejudice
before calculating the filing fee.

REMARKS

Enclosed herewith is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified patent application, which is a divisional of prior U.S. Application Serial No. 09/111,915, filed July 8, 1998, from which priority is claimed under 35 USC §120.

By this Amendment, Claims 1-11, 37, 38 and 39 have been cancelled. Claims 12-36 remain in the application. Favorable consideration and allowance of Claims 12-36 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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